National Congress Bulletin

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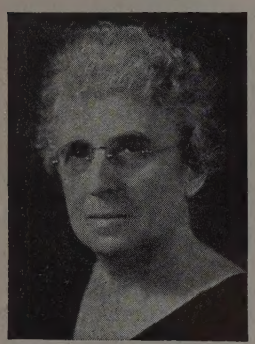
Dear Local President:



IN THESE DAYS of chaos and turmoil, when the very foundations of our democratic way of life are threatened, it behooves us to reaffirm our loyalty and to accept wholeheartedly the following pledge:

> AS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, I will help to win this war by being loyal to the United States of America, to my state, and to the community in which I live.

Let us all, as loyal American citizens, give prominence to display of the flag of the United States of America at our homes, at our places of business, and at our parent-teacher meetings. Let us teach our members and our children the correct etiquette of the flag, and let us make the pledge of allegiance more meaningful than ever before. Let us at all times and in all our relationships not only *teach* the democratic way of life but *practice* it. Let us make our loyalty a loyalty of action, not of words alone.

No greater challenge confronts any group than that which confronts us as parents and teachers. We are challenged to develop a future citizenry that will be capable of carrying on the ideals for which many of our young men are today offering the supreme sacrifice. We are challenged to train loyal citizens who, imbued with the sense of fairness and the love of truth, will assist when this war is over in meting out justice in such a manner that a third world war may never become a possibility. May God give us strength to meet this challenge.

Kate P. Mabrey

Vice-President — Region V
National Congress of Parents and Teachers

SIGNIFICANT GAIN IN MEMBERSHIP

That the need to find serviceable ways of working for the national good becomes more than ever vital in times of stress and danger is conclusively demonstrated by recent National Congress data indicating that the total individual membership numbers 2,685,041 for 1941-42, as compared with 2,480,188 for 1940-41. A gain of 204,853 members in a year is cause for rejoicing; it means a greatly augmented strength for use against the forces that threaten the security and growth of America's children. "Membership means power," said our recent war extra edition of the *Bulletin*. Undeniably membership does mean power. And this increase is probably only a foreshadowing of a much greater increase to come.

CONVENTION BROADCASTS

The work of the parent-teacher organization in time of war will be the topic discussed in a signally important nation-wide broadcast over the Blue Network from Station WOAI, San Antonio, Texas, at 3:45 to 4 p.m. Eastern War Time on Monday, May 4. The participants will be Mrs. William Kletzer, national president, and Dr. Ada Hart Arlitt, national chairman of Parent Education, of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, and Miss Agnes Samuelson, executive secretary of the Iowa State Teachers Association. Parent-teacher members are urged to watch their local papers for announcements of this and other broadcasts that may be scheduled later during the convention.

CITIZENSHIP RECOGNITION DAY

President Roosevelt has proclaimed Sunday, May 17, as "I Am an American Day." The President declared: "It is even more essential in time of war than in time of peace that a people should fully understand the form and genius of their government and the responsibilities of citizenship. . . . I urge that the day be set aside as a public occasion for the recognition of all our citizens who have attained their majority or who have been naturalized during the past year; and I call upon Federal, state, and local officials and patriotic, civic, and educational organizations to take part on that day in exercises designed to impress upon all our citizens . . . the duties and opportunities of citizenship and its special responsibilities in a nation at war."

NATIONAL AND INTER-AMERICAN MUSIC WEEK

"Last year," says the 1942 Letter of the National and Inter-American Music Week Committee to local Music Week chairmen and workers, "Music Week broadened into an inter-American observance, and it will broaden again, to meet present conditions and larger needs."

Music Week has been observed annually since 1924. Last year it was celebrated in over three thousand cities and towns in continental United States alone. P.T.A. groups, as well as all other civic, patriotic, and educational organizations in the community, are invited to participate in making this year's observance memorable. Special emphasis will be laid on encouraging the participation of our Allies and the people of the United Nations, which, it is hoped, will increase with every year's celebration. Schools, churches, libraries, and music teachers have valuable contributions to make and are urged to give this great national and international project their full support. At the national convention of the N.C.P.T., the presentation of the National Chorus on Tuesday evening will mark the observance of Music Week.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AT WORK

PROCEDURE AND BYLAWS

"IT IS ESSENTIAL," says Mrs. Louis R. Fulton, national chairman, "that there be more recognition of the fact that the duties of a chairman of Procedure and Bylaws involve much more than mere examination and revision of bylaws. From the numerous questions constantly coming from different states it is evident that greater effort should be made to promote conferences on parent-teacher and parliamentary procedure—conferences that not only give information but present an opportunity for discussion."

Mrs. Fulton's point is well taken. It is always a hopeful sign when the members of an organization cease to be content with perfunctory membership and insist upon knowing the why and the wherefore of organizational policies and principles. A solid acquaintance with the organizational framework as constructed in its bylaws, together with a ready knowledge of the general rules of parliamentary procedure, supplies an excellent foundation for intelligent participation in any concerted group effort. State and local chairmen of Procedure and Bylaws can find an opportunity for important service here and will be quick to make use of it.

SAFETY

THE physical safety of America's people is a topic of serious importance. It becomes doubly serious and doubly important when the new hazards of possible hostile attack are superimposed upon the everyday hazards of traffic and of occupational injury. Miss Marian Telford, national chairman, has acted consistently, both before and since the entrance of the United States into the war, to promote the widest possible dissemination of safety information. The official guide, *A Safety Manual for Parent-Teacher Associations,* contains standard material for use at all times, and special war-adapted material is being made constantly and widely available.

An acute problem of physical safety is presented by inadequate daytime care for young children whose mothers are employed in war industries. P.T.A. committees on Safety in regions affected by this problem will find in it an opportunity for service of an extremely valuable kind. "The national emergency," says Miss Telford, "increases immeasurably the significance of safety activities. . . . Our aim is to do better what is being done and to instigate new activities."

RURAL LIFE SUNDAY

The fifth Sunday after Easter has been set aside for the observance of Rural Life Sunday by 4-H Clubs. The date, however, is not immovably fixed, and may vary in different regions. This is true especially of the 1942 observance, since the fifth Sunday after Easter, May 10, is Mothers' Day this year.

The celebration is an occasion of marked spiritual significance to the nation. A published release makes this statement: "At no previous time has it been so apparent as now that it will be the spiritual strength of our people that will determine the destiny of this nation. . . . Much of this spiritual strength will be attained through home and community activities that provide those essentials most conducive to . . . moral and spiritual development."

NEW CONGRESS BOOK

The publication this summer by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers of a significant new book, "Community Life in a Democracy", will be one of the highlights of the year's publications program. Advance orders are now being taken for this book, which will be available to individuals at $1.

"Community Life in a Democracy" is the joint work of a number of thinkers and educators of wide experience and national reputation. It is extremely valuable as an interpreter of the community's needs and of the role of the parent-teacher association in helping to fulfill them. It is designed to cover several extensive fields of usefulness in community work.

FOR THE DURATION

What activities does your parent-teacher association plan to carry on this summer? I hope that there will be many of them, for children need the thoughtful planning of parents and teachers all the year round, not merely in the months of school. Many things that parent-teacher associations should do for children are particularly associated with the summer season. Too often, however, these things have been left undone because parent-teacher associations did not work out a plan that would take care of the children's summer needs.

This summer especially we cannot neglect our parent-teacher responsibilities toward children. We must keep our membership and our committees "on call" at all times. Protecting children physically, emotionally, and socially is an obligation we dare not shirk. The acute need for full protection is heightened by the war; we have no indication that our enemies will take a vacation this summer. Our patriotic duty, therefore, compels us to be doubly alert; to safeguard children in danger zones and to protect them from accidents in the home and on the highway; to provide wholesome recreation for children of all ages; and to maintain all the services that insure their health, their social welfare, and their spiritual development.

Do not be afraid of asking your members to work this summer. People want to do worth-while things to help the nation's morale and to increase its efficiency. If your organization does not offer opportunities for service to its members during summer months, these members will seek outlets for their desire to render war service in the programs of other organizations. And, if this happens, parent-teacher leaders will find it increasingly difficult to marshal their forces in the fall.

In brief, then, when you hold your last spring meeting, announce your summer projects and the committees that will carry them out. Announce, too, that your executive committee is staying on the job all summer. Consider the creation of a subcommittee of that body to be known as the war emergency committee. This group should be prepared to study any new developments in the program of child protection to which we are committed and to work out such plans of cooperation with other agencies as the local unit can undertake under its own program.

MRS. WILLIAM KLETZER
President

WHAT PARENT-TEACHER GROUPS ARE DOING TO HELP WIN THE WAR

IDAHO

• THE P.T.A. war program in Idaho is wide and systematic, with associations all over the state reporting enthusiastic participation in every field. Reports received from forty-six associations list the following activities:

1. Encouraging and assisting the sale of war stamps.....20 associations
2. Collecting paper, magazines, rubber, and other salvage..15 associations
3. Securing and collecting clothing for evacuees .....10 associations
4. Arousing interest in air raid and fire protection .....12 associations
5. Assisting with the sugar-rationing program .....8 associations
6. Encouraging the planting of victory gardens.....5 associations

Cooperation with such groups as the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, and the Campfire Girls is reported. Extensive work with the Red Cross is being done; Red Cross classes are participated in by P.T.A. groups as follows:

Nutrition	18 associations
First aid	20 associations
Knitting and sewing	33 associations
Home hygiene	3 associations
Nursing	7 associations

Twelve associations are participating in raising funds for the Red Cross. Teachers are often mentioned as members of the different classes.

ILLINOIS

• THE board of managers of the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers has made a careful study of the war projects recommended to parent-teacher groups by the National Congress and has selected the following activities as particularly important and suitable for Illinois:

1. Cooperation with state and local authorities in civilian defense, rather than initiation or duplication of work.
2. Institution of courses in nutrition.
3. Conservation of clothing, household furnishings, and equipment.
4. Encouragement of victory gardens.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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P T A

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5. Collection of books for men in service.
6. Immunization campaigns.
7. Prevention and control of social disease.
8. Use of local civic rights to control the sale of beer and narcotics.
9. Promotion of war bonds and stamps without pressure on school children.
10. Maintenance of educational opportunities in elementary and secondary schools.
11. Protection of children and youth.
12. Upbuilding of morale.

The P.T.A. Wartime Pledge presented in the special war extra of the *National Congress Bulletin* has been adopted by the Illinois Congress.

OKLAHOMA

• AN excellent check list for evaluating any war effort is presented in the Oklahoma P.T.A. War Bulletin. It follows:

1. Will the activity help to win the war?
2. Does the activity legitimately fit into the parent-teacher program? Does it fulfill the purposes and objectives of the organization?
3. Is the activity something we CAN do?
4. Will the activity take members away from home to the detriment of their families?
5. Are other organizations already engaged in the activity?
6. If so, is there some other necessary activity, within the scope of our abilities to perform, not being cared for by any other organization?
7. Will the activity protect the families of our community physically, mentally, or socially?
8. Will the activity help to keep the community aware of the importance of school education and the need for maintaining present educational standards?
9. Will the activity bring about a better understanding of what the schools are doing, what they can do, and what they should do during the war?
10. Will the activity do anything to make communities healthier, safer, better places to live in? Will it help to set up safeguards for health, safety, or juvenile protection?
11. Will the activity bring about a spiritual awakening in the community? Will it lead to more religious education in the home?

The Oklahoma bulletin, which carries the slogan "Mobilize for the Duration!" also strongly recommends the "block mothers" plan.

OHIO

• OHIO P.T.A. leaders are cooperating actively with community agencies for civilian defense. The appointment and organization of block mothers has won state-wide recognition as a wartime plan of outstanding merit. It is understood that the block mother setup will be maintained intact to function in other ways in civilian defense, as the unique character of the plan has resulted in an amazingly effective neighborhood defense organization. Indeed, in many areas the "block mothers" program has been given credit for the major part of the war program's efficiency.

UTAH

• UTAH reports parent-teacher surveys, courses, and drives in connection with all important phases of civilian defense, including nutrition, immunization, first aid, registration and identification of children, establishing of the "block mothers" plan in cooperation with the civilian block wardens, and promotion of the campaign to sell defense bonds and stamps.

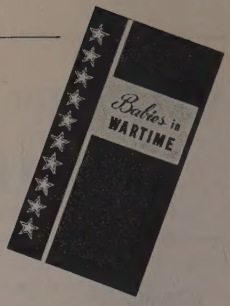
In addition, Mrs. L. K. Nicholson, state president, writes: "The P.T.A. is cooperating with the schools in equipping every room with blankets, sheets, cots, and medical supplies. Some of the P.T.A. study groups are knitting afghans out of old yarn and making blankets out of old woolen pieces; they are also lending to the schools such items as hot water bottles, cots, sheets, and hot pads for use in case of emergency.

AMERICA PITCHES IN

A WARTIME PROGRAM

AND TIMELY STUDY COURSE

MANY parent-teacher leaders, using the *National Parent-Teacher* study courses year after year for study groups functioning within the structure of the P.T.A., have not yet fully realized that this material lends itself equally well to use in the actual year's program of the association. It has been planned to meet either need or both. Its use will save much unnecessary difficulty in building good programs that will sustain interest throughout the entire year.



BABIES IN WARTIME

Topics to be discussed:

- The Family Takes the Job
- What Youth Can Do
- Flora McFlimsey Had Nothing to Wear
- Foods I Have Known
- Money Makes the Mare Go — But It Goes Too
- A Penny Saved
- Your Community and You
- This New World — Is It Brave?

THE articles and outlines which form the basis of this study program will be published monthly in the *National Parent-Teacher* beginning in the September 1942 issue. Here are short summaries of the topics to be considered:

The Family Takes the Job—Preparing children to meet the conditions of war is the immediate job of the family in wartime. How to help every member of the family to gain and keep a sense of inner security—how to consolidate the family into a close-knit unit that can actually help to win the war—these questions will be dealt with in the first article.

What Youth Can Do — Totalitarian nations gain the loyalty of their young people by giving them an opportunity to serve the state. In their own way, the democracies can win youth's loyalty likewise; for in time of war every child, as well as every man and every woman, can be of service. The second article is charted to show the way.

Flora McFlimsey Had Nothing to Wear—The third article will take up the interesting subject of substitute clothing materials and how to use them. Clothing already on hand, however, will be included for careful consideration, and mending, renovating, and freshening processes will be described. Ways of getting longer wear from old garments, as well as hints on what to look for in materials when it becomes necessary to buy new ones, will be featured.

Foods I Have Known — What is the difference between a good food budget and a poor one? What are the "necessary" foods? How can new dishes be appetizingly prepared? These questions and others related to the ever-present problems of meal planning and conservation will be answered in the fourth article.

Money Makes the Mare Go—But It Goes Too—The fifth article deals with dollars and common sense. Taxes, inflation, and the nature and meaning of money will make up the bulk of its subject matter. Of signal importance in time of war, money and its handling will repay diligent study by P.T.A. members.

A Penny Saved — More about money, this time in the more detailed aspect of family savings. How to save; how much to save; how to know when it is unwise to save; how to prevent waste—the sixth article is designed to furnish sound, dependable information to use in approaching each of these family problems.

Your Community and You — How does propaganda get started? How can the individual citizen help to guard his community against the insidious influence of unwise propaganda? What is the individual citizen's actual duty to his community, and what are its limits? Finally, how can the individual citizen and family make the most of the community and its resources? For a thorough handling of these and kindred subjects, see the seventh article.

This New World — Is It Brave? — Young people are frequently disturbed by speakers who tell them they live in a dangerous world and face a "dead end" in their own lives and in the life of civilization. It is the duty of parents and teachers to prove to American youth the fundamental falsity of these statements. The major emphasis in the eighth and final article, accordingly, will be on the innumerable assets of the new world in which our young people will grow up.

Topics to be studied:

- The Young Mother Faces War
- How War Affects the Baby's Food
- Why Have Fears?
- The Air Raid Shelter
- What Clothes Are Necessary
- The Democratic Nursery
- Should Children Play at War?
- Gardens for Babies

Babies in Wartime is a course that will be found useful not only by study groups but by young mothers studying at home. Fathers likewise will find it valuable.

Beginning in the September 1942 issue of the *National Parent-Teacher*, this course, including both articles and outlines for study, will be presented monthly in the Magazine. Topics covered will include everything that is required for a thorough and competent understanding of the needs of babies and their wholesome development.

The course will deal with the following points: "The Young Mother Faces War," a presentation of that phase of present-day life which lies uppermost in the thinking of every one of us; "How War Affects the Baby's Food," another vital discussion; "Why Have Fears?" a bracing contribution to morale; "The Air Raid Shelter," a practical guide to measures that may possibly become urgent; "What Clothes Are Necessary?" answering a question of great importance now that there is such a widespread restriction of various materials; "The Democratic Nursery," an account of the effort that may be made to put democracy into actual practice even at this early age; "Should Children Play at War?" an article that tackles a question mooted long before the beginning of the present conflict and doubly important today; and, finally, "Gardens for Babies" — intriguing title!

All young parents should study this course. It will help them to play their new role with intelligence and courage.

A SAMPLE set of the attractive leaflets which list the topics will be sent *free* upon request to program and study group chairmen.